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NRO, USN & USAF REVIEWS COMPLETED

28 November 1969

BRIEFING NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: U-2R Aircraft and Pilot Qualification in Carrier Operation (Blue Gull V)

1. This brief is to inform you of the IDEALIST U-2R aircraft and pilot qualification operation (Blue Gull V) conducted on the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS America on 21, 22 and 23 November 1969.

2. Requirement - To develop a capability to deploy the U-2 on a world wide basis and to conduct operational missions from other than land bases. Since 1963, the U-2G had fulfilled this requirement. Blue Gull V operations qualified the latest U-2 model (U-2R) to meet this requirement.

3. The USS America was provided by the U.S. Navy for this exercise. Area of operation was off the Virginia coast in the Norfolk-Wallops Station NASA area. Wallops Station NASA, Virginia, was utilized as the mainland base. The U-2R qualification test phase was accomplished by a Lockheed test pilot. Subsequently, [redacted] were carrier qualified and declared operationally ready in U-2R carrier operations. Minimum requirements for pilot

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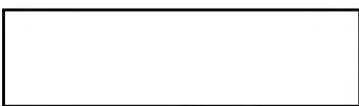
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qualifications on this exercise consisted of two wave off patterns, four touch and go landings and four trap landings for each pilot. All aircrews were qualified without incident.

4. The wholehearted cooperation and support extended by the U.S. Navy and NASA was outstanding and contributed greatly to the successful completion of this operation.

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